

NOTICE.

THE Undersigned, having become LESSOR of the "HONGKONG DAILY PRESS" and the BUSINESS connected therewith, will conduct the same on his own account from this date.

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX.
Daily Press Office,
Hongkong, 1st January, 1878.

NOTICE.

A. S. WATSON AND CO.,
FAMILY AND DISPENSING
CHEMISTS.

By Appointment to His Excellency the GOVERNOR and His Royal Highness the DUKE of EDINBURGH,
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DRUGGISTS
PERFUMERS,
PATENT MEDICINE VENDORS,
DRUGGISTS' SUPPLYMEN,
AND
AERATED WATER MAKERS.

SHIPS' MEDICINE CHESTS REFFITED,
PASSENGER SHIPS SUPPLIED.

NOTICE.—To avoid delay in the execution of Orders it is particularly requested that all business communications be addressed to the Firm, A. S. WATSON and Co., er.

HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

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NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Communications on Editorial matters should be addressed to "The Editor," and those on "Business" to "The Manager," and not to individuals by name.

Correspondents are requested to forward their name and address with communications addressed to the Editor, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith.

All letters for publication should be written on one side of the paper only.

MARRIAGE.

On the 15th January, at Upp. Tenterden, by the Rev. Mr. Pope, D.D., Vicar of St. Eode's, South Kensington, requested by the Rev. W. J. Edge, M.A., Vicar of the parish, WALTER EDWIN AUGUSTUS, son of the Rev. Charles Edward Edge, of Upp. Tenterden, and BETHIA, EMMA MARY LAMONT, youngest daughter of John, Wedc. of Upper Tenterden, Surrey, and formerly of China.

On the 5th January, in Paris, in his 35th year, ALEXANDER MACPHERSON, of the Imperial Customs of China, and son of the late Rev. R. Macpherson.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, FEBRUARY 25TH, 1878.

The meeting of the Legislative Council on Tuesday last afforded an excellent illustration of the value of the non-official element in its constitution; and the loyalty of the Governor's character came out in bold relief when, in a moment, he expressed his willingness to postpone what was evidently a pet scheme, upon finding it opposed by the whole of the non-official portion of the Council. His Excellency, whilst firmly trusting in the wisdom of the arrangement he had proposed, felt that he could not go counter to the unanimous opinion of those whose long experience and high position invested their dictum with very great authority. So ready did the Governor appear to accept the position in which he was placed by the united opposition of the non-official members, that he at once secured their sympathy, together with the vote for an interpreter, which he had proposed. There can be no manner of doubt that the Governor of Hongkong is entitled to the services of the best interpreter who can be obtained. We do not blame His Excellency for giving a little out of the ordinary groove; and we command him for the willingness which he, in this instance, showed to take advice. Who should know the Chinese character better than British merchants, who have conducted business, in Canton and Hongkong for more than a century? It was no pleasing duty to get up, as these three gentlemen did, on Tuesday, one after the other, and, in a quiet manner as they could possibly assume, enter their simple protest against the employment of a native as confidential interpreter in the offices of the Governor and the Colonial Secretary. We give Mr. Pope Hincks credit for the best of motives, and are quite certain that, if he be spared to complete his five years with us, he will learn to moderate his views upon this subject.

Confidence is a delicate and tender plant, and one moreover of slow growth: it must be spontaneous, and cannot by any possibility be forced. The natives, as a rule, have but little confidence in one another, and those who are the most proficient in the English language are not the men who attract the largest share. There are exceptions to this rule of general distrust, men whose names are synonymous for all that is honourable, and which will spring in a moment from the lips of a trader when reciting the unwritten Chinese volume of Who's Who? These men, however, are not distinguished for their scholarship, nor are they likely to become interpreters. The singularly high esteem in which these few men stand seems to mark them out as striking exceptions, and only proves the rule of the almost universal want of confidence of Chinese in their fellow men. A foreigner also will generally trust his own compatriot, whilst he entertains a very indifferent opinion of his neighbour's weights and scales. It has been said that "every man has his price." This adage doubtless applies with greater truth to some countries than to others; and it might be very uncharitable to suppose that it had its origin in China. The Chinese doubtless can be honest, when they believe it to be their interest to be so; indeed, the honesty of the lower class is very much in advance of that of the same class in Europe. It is no use, however, blinding our eyes to the fact that the native character is entirely opposed in principle and practice to all our notions of uprightness. We do not blame them, but simply pity them for their education; and wonder rather that they are what they are, and what marvellous principle of conservatism it is which preserves the Chinese nation. That they are a most remarkable people, there is not the shadow of a doubt; but the great power of truth is unfortunately wanting from one end of the empire to the other. For instance, how many Chinese in Hongkong does any one foreigner know and implicitly believe? Those who have a wide acquaintance with them can count such men upon their fingers.

Many of the compradores have grown rich in the employ of foreigners; indeed, in numerous cases, have made fortunes whilst their masters have been ruined. Does any

one remember, a case of one of those useful individuals being taken into partnership, and why not? They are not disqualified by a want of means, or knowledge of business.

Is there a Chinese clerk even employed in a responsible position in any merchant's office in Hongkong? and if not, why not? One thing is certain, that the natives know much more about Government movements in the Colony than foreigners, and is not the reason to be found in the employment of Chinese clerks in the several departments? Disease is the great impediment to commercial transactions, and hence is most unwillingly entertained; but bitter experience has taught those caution who have had most acquaintance with native character. We are not now writing of the old Canton tea and silk men, who made their business mostly through English-speaking linguists, but of the Hongkong Chinese, the great portion of whom are from an altogether different class of society, strangers mostly to the high code of morality rigidly adhered to in former times by the commercial aristocracy of China. The linguists live in some cases in great wealth, and are often the chief disengaged in the conduct of the foreign trade.

The linguists have in some cases the confidence of the Canton officials, or the natives of Hongkong. It is doubtless true that there is a great desire on the part of the Chinese Government to obtain English-speaking clerks, and the same disposition is manifested amongst the native traders here; but if these changes do not increase the confidence of bankers and merchants in native hands, but have not in an equal degree secured the confidence of the Canton officials, or the natives of Hongkong. It is doubtless true that there is a great desire on the part of the Chinese Government to obtain English-speaking clerks, and the same disposition is manifested amongst the native traders here; but if these changes do not increase the confidence of bankers and merchants in native hands, but have not in an equal degree secured the confidence of the Canton officials, or the natives of Hongkong.

We have been favoured with an inspection of a service of silver plate for presentation by the British and foreign crews of Canton, Mr. Charles E. Brook, Mr. C. B., Mr. Major's Committee, and Mr. G. H. Chater, Mr. Chater's Translation to Shanghai. The service consists of a handsome silver salver, partly gilt, beautifully engraved, and having an elegant frost silver panther handle; a coffee pot, tea pot, sugar basin, cream jug, and card tray, all matching the salver and forming a splendid set. The whole service weighs three hundred ounces. The work is of great exactness and finish.

The following is the inscription on the salver:—Presented to Sir Brook Robertson, C.B., by his friends and well-wishers amongst the foreign community of Canton, on the occasion of his departure from the port after a lengthened residence as Her Britannic Majesty's Consul, February, 1878.

The usual friendly entertainment will be held at the Temperance Hall, Stanley-street, to-night, commencing at 8.30 p.m., and to defray the cost of alterations to the stage a small charge for admission will be made. The following is the programme:—

Violin and Piano—Overture "L'Impresario."
Song—The Scena.
Song—That's where you make a mistake.
Pari Song—Hall! Smiling morn.
Song—Not before Pa, dear.
Duet—Cox and Box.
Duet—The Death of Pauline.
Duet—The Larboard Watch.
Song—Draw near the fire.
Song—The swallows are coming.
Song—Happy as the dream.
Song—Goodbye, Nelly-dear.

We take the subjoined items from the London and China Express of the 18th ult.

We believe that efforts are being made in several quarters for raising a fund for the benefit of the sufferers in the famine districts in China.

The new Order in Council for the regulation and reform of the working of the Supreme Court of China and Japan will, we understand, be published only next month.

We understand that Admiral Ryder, who has just returned from the China Station, has received the thanks of the Lord of the Admiralty. He is not likely to remain long unemployed.

Major Eliot, who served in the expedition against the Taku forts in 1860, is to succeed Major Newbold—who will be remembered as in Hongkong in 1873—in the command of the artillery at St. Helena.

We learn from the Shanghai papers that on the 16th inst. at the request of the C.M.S.C. Co., an investigation of the circumstances attending the loss of the steamer *Kiangchung* was held at the Customs House, Shanghai. Reporters were not admitted. The Court was composed of Messrs. G. B. Glover, Commissioner of Customs; Captain Blundell, Harbour-master; Mr. Fung Tung, U.S. gunboat *Ashurst*; and Captain Simaow, steamer *Kung-fu*.

The Jury List for 1878 is published in Saturday's *Gazette*, and contains several fresh names, including those of six Chinese. The latest is the *Shih-ping*, Shanghai.

His Excellency Liu Hsien-ho, the Chinese Minister at the Court of Berlin, has communicated to Mr. Walter Goodman to copy him the "Madonna in Prayer" by Sasso Ferrato, in the National Gallery, Trafalgar. This is the first composition ever given by a Chinese to an English artist.

The attendance of the Flower Show on Saturday was very large, almost as many entries fees being paid as on the opening day. The flowers looked fairly fresh, and the visitors, who included a good number of natives, appeared much pleased with the show. The Bank of the 74th Highlanders was present and went through an excellent programme. The Flower Show is always a great attraction, and it is to be hoped that the *Flower Show* will be a success this year, and the same must be very satisfactory to the Committee.

On the 12th January the Messengers Maritimes steamer *Ganges*, while on a voyage from London to Melbourne, was sunk in the North Sea, with the loss of 120 lives.

The following officers have been appointed to the grand *Falcon* which has been commissioned by the Chinese Government to search for the *Amelia Earhart*: Captain Charles E. Brook, Mr. W. L. Macmillan and Mr. W. H. Broughton; Staff-Surgeon Goodall and Assistant Paymaster Gray. The grand *Falcon*, four guns 45 tons, 360 horse power, is also to be sent to the China Station and is being painted white to resist the heat. It may be remembered that a gnat of this name, did good service in the early days of British intercourse with China.

Mr. J. Steward has put a notice on the paper to the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs when the remaining portion of the report of the Rev. Thomas Wade will be laid on the table, and whether it is the intention of the Government to recall the *Clapham*.

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At the Marine Court, St. Helens, before Captain Thomass, R.N., John Parker, a seaman on the British ship *Thomase Bell*, was charged with assaulting the prosecutor—Captain Grindall said that the prisoner was on the articles. At two o'clock yesterday afternoon witness saw a sign up for him to come on board. On arriving on the ship the second mate reported to him that a disturbance had been made in the press room, and he was to be sent to the *Amelia Earhart*.

He was then sent to the *Amelia Earhart*. Whilst dining a seaman, John Ross, came to him and said that the prisoner was constantly insulting him in the forecastle, and had beaten him. "Witness went on the deck and called the prisoner a scoundrel and reprimanded him." Parker was a little witness. Witness said him when he got the drink from, when the prisoner became abusive and threatened him. The prisoner then got into the cabin and tried to pull him down, but the second mate took hold of him and put him down the hatch until witness went ashore, when he took him off and gave him charge. "The prisoner said that the captain illustrated the articles of service, and that he had been a scoundrel." They were to be sent to the *Amelia Earhart*.

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